

2023

# Oklahoma Early Childhood Research Symposium



OKLAHOMA  
PARTNERSHIP  
FOR SCHOOL  
READINESS

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**2023**

# Oklahoma Early Childhood Research Symposium

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**8:00 a.m.**

Registration and Check-In  
*Devon Boathouse*

**8:30 a.m.**

Welcoming Remarks  
Carrie Williams, Executive Director, Oklahoma  
Partnership for School Readiness  
*Devon Boathouse*

**9:00 a.m.**

Keynote Address: "The Healing Power of Play"  
Dr. Barbara Sorrels, CEO of Connected Kids &  
The Institute for Childhood Education  
*Devon Boathouse*

**11:00 a.m.**

**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
The Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success  
*Devon Boathouse*

### MODERATOR

Sarah Roberts, Vice President of Programs,  
Inasmuch Foundation

### PANELISTS

Justin Brown, Founder of the Clearinghouse for  
Early Childhood Success

Brittany Lee, Director of Child Care Services,  
Oklahoma Human Services

Carrie Williams, Executive Director, OPSR

**Noon**

Lunch  
*Devon Boathouse*

**1:00 p.m.**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS #1**  
"Pyramid Model Peer Learning Communities:  
Supporting Oklahoma's Workforce" with Paula  
Brown  
*UCO Boathouse*

"Promoting Father Involvement in Home  
Visiting and Parenting: Results from a Father  
Engagement Learning Collaborative" with Dr.  
Amy Treat  
*Devon Boathouse*

**2:00 p.m.**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS #2**  
"Factors Influencing the Choice of Center-Based  
Childcare in Myanmar Refugee Families" with Dr.  
Chie Noyori-Corbett and Boo Young Lim  
*UCO Boathouse*

"Learn the Signs. Act Early. Outcomes of CDC's  
Developmental Health Initiative on the Early  
Identification of Developmental Delay in Young  
Children" with Dr. Bonnie McBride  
*Devon Boathouse*

**3:00 p.m.**

Closing

## WI-FI INFORMATION

### Devon Boathouse

**Network:** Riversport Guest  
**Password:** beourguest

### UCO Boathouse

Guests will need to create an account and  
will be prompted to do so when logging on.

# Welcome

**O**n behalf of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Foundation, I would like to extend a warm welcome and thank you for joining us at the 2023 Oklahoma Early Childhood Research Symposium. The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness was founded twenty years ago with a belief that through the coordination of research, data, and resources we can make an early childhood system in Oklahoma that both strengthens families and makes sure that all Oklahoma children are safe, healthy, eager to learn, and ready to succeed by the time they enter school.

Oklahoma boasts a rich legacy of pioneering quality early childhood programs and services. From spearheading universal pre-K initiatives to being the first state to fully implement the Quality Rating and Improvement System, we understand what it means to lead with foresight and to promote child well-being. Given this, we must always continue to look forward in order to find new ways to improve upon past success and to remain innovative in our shared belief that every child deserves a chance to flourish.

The Early Childhood Research Symposium serves as an invaluable platform for uniting researchers, clinicians, early childhood educators, and child welfare professionals. Together, we can explore new and emerging practices within the early childhood and early child education systems, driving us toward a brighter future.

The Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Foundation is grateful to our sponsors, **Inasmuch Foundation, George Kaiser Family Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Oklahoma Impact Investing Collaborative, Oklahoma Human Services, and Potts Family Foundation** for helping present this symposium.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your attendance at this important forum. Your presence at this symposium focusing on Early Care and Learning brings the mission of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness to life: "To lead Oklahoma in coordinating an early childhood system that strengthens families and ensures all children are ready for school." This important work would simply not be possible without your continued commitment – thank you for all you do every day to advance the cause of Oklahoma children.



*Ginny Bass Carl*

**GINNY BASS CARL**  
Board President  
Oklahoma Partnership for  
School Readiness Foundation

# Session Details

## SYMPOSIUM WELCOME



**Carrie Williams**  
Executive Director, OPSR

**Carrie Williams** has served as executive director of the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness Foundation since May of 2021. During her tenure, she has overseen Oklahoma's Early Childhood Advisory Council and facilitated streamlining of programs and services on behalf of Oklahoma's children and families. She leads the Oklahoma Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success, which has funded implementation of more than \$9 million in projects to improve outcomes for children and families through public/private partnerships. Carrie's work includes a collaborative effort between

OPSR and Oklahoma Human Services to secure \$36 million from the Administration for Children and Families to improve Oklahoma's early childhood system.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS



## The Healing Power of Play

**Dr. Barbara Sorrels**  
Founder & CEO, Connected Kids &  
The Institute for Childhood Education

**Dr. Barbara Sorrels** is founder and CEO of Connected Kids and The Institute for Childhood Education. She is the author of several books including the award-winning book, *Reaching and Teaching Children Exposed to Trauma* and the recently released *Trauma Sensitive Care for Infants, Toddlers, and Two-Year-Olds*. In 2021 Dr. Sorrels was

recognized by the US Department of Education Title IV Technical Assistance Center as a content expert in child development and trauma. Dr. Sorrels is the founder of Connected Kids' Therapeutic Preschool and has experience as a classroom teacher, founder and director of two early childhood centers, and university professor. She has a passion for creating trauma responsive schools, childcare centers, social service agencies and communities.

PANEL DISCUSSION

# The Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success

MODERATOR



**Sarah Roberts**  
Vice President of Programs,  
Inasmuch Foundation

**Sarah Roberts** currently serves as Vice President of Programs at Inasmuch Foundation. The Foundation was founded by Edith Kinney Gaylord in 1982 and makes grants in Oklahoma and Colorado Springs in these broad categories: education, human services, community and journalism. Sarah has been employed at Inasmuch Foundation for over 17 years. Inasmuch Foundation has placed emphasis on forging public/private partnerships to fund evidence-based interventions for vulnerable children and families as well as attracting much needed

federal investments to Oklahoma City. Examples of a few successful public/private partnerships are: Pivot, Oklahoma City Educare, ReMerge, Metafund, Community CARES Partners, and Smart Start Central Oklahoma.

PANELISTS



**Justin Brown**  
Founder of the Clearinghouse for Early Childhood Success

**Sec. Justin Brown** served the state of Oklahoma as both the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (2019-2022) and as Cabinet Secretary of Human Services (2020-2023). While at Oklahoma Human Services, Brown oversaw the state's largest agency by workforce and introduced a grassroots strategic planning effort and human services operating system known as the 'True North.' Because of this transformational approach, OKDHS was able to remain focused on the agency's long-term strategies during the pandemic, instead of assuming a defensive posture during this time of dramatic disruption. As a strong relationship builder, Brown built a culture of true collaboration with state and

federal agencies, local non-profits, philanthropic foundations, legislators, and the communities the agency serves, aligning stakeholders in a shared vision and with connected definitions of success.



**Brittany Lee**  
Director of Child Care Services at Oklahoma Human Services.

**Brittany Lee's** background includes nearly twenty years of professional experience in the early childhood sector. Her expertise range from teaching in the classroom, directing a child care center, supervising operations for multiple ECE programs, facilitating professional development and mentoring young educators. Lee has a bachelor's degree from the University of Central Oklahoma in Education and a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma in Instructional Leadership and Academic Curriculum. Brittany Lee is passionate and committed to enriching the lives of children and those child care professionals who work with them.



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Executive Director, OPSR

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# Breakout Sessions #1

(1:00 – 2:00 P.M.)

## Pyramid Model Peer Learning Communities Supporting Oklahoma's Workforce

LOCATION: UCO BOATHOUSE



### Paula Brown

Director of Oklahoma Head Start Collaboration Office & Oklahoma Association of Community Action Agencies

Paula Brown has 38 years of experience in Head Start and the world of young children and families. She previously completed 23 years as the Disabilities Services Manager for United Community Action Head Start and has served Oklahoma as their Head Start Collaboration Director since 2021. She earned her BS in Psychology from Oklahoma State University in 1985 and her master's in special education from Ashford University in 2013 and is working on her Ph.D. in Human Development & Family

Sciences from Oklahoma State University. She has extensive experience as an Adjunct Instructor in Early Childhood Education and Child Development at Northern Oklahoma College and Oklahoma State University. She has been a Governor's appointee to Oklahoma's Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Intervention (ICC) since 1998, currently serves as the chair of the Infant Mental Health Committee for the ICC, she serves on Oklahoma's Stakeholder's Group for Preventing Obesity, is on Oklahoma's Pyramid Model State Leadership Team, Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness's Board of Directors, Autism Foundation of Oklahoma's Early Childhood committee, and Oklahoma's Clearinghouse on Early Childhood Success.

**The Pyramid Model** is a comprehensive, multi-tiered framework of evidence-based practices that promote the social, emotional, and behavioral development of young children. The model promotes the skills necessary for young children, from birth to age 5, to understand and manage their emotions. In addition, it addresses disparities in discipline practices; promotes family engagement; and fosters inclusion of children with, and at risk for, developmental delays and disabilities.

## Promoting Father Involvement in Home Visiting and Parenting Results from a Father Engagement Learning Collaborative

LOCATION: DEVON BOATHOUSE



### Amy Treat, PhD

Research Associate, Center for Child Abuse & Neglect at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Amy Treat has received her PhD from Oklahoma State University in Developmental Family Science, with a focus on generational trauma and its influence on parenting and child development. Currently she is working at the OU Center for Health Sciences, Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics in the Center for

Child Abuse and Neglect. She is the lead qualitative researcher at the Embracer Center. Her current research projects are focused on increasing access to care and improving care coordination across systems for vulnerable populations.

# Breakout Sessions #2

(2:00 – 3:00 P.M.)

## Factors Influencing the Choice of Center-Based Childcare in Myanmar Refugee Families

LOCATION: UCO BOATHOUSE



### Chie Noyori-Corbett, PhD, MSSW

Associate Director of Research/Associate Professor, Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work, Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma

Dr. Noyori-Corbett is the founder of OU's Humanitarian Innovation Research Group (HIRG) ([ou.edu/hirg](http://ou.edu/hirg)) which is to bring awareness to refugee integration issues in the United States. Dr. Noyori-Corbett received certificates from the Refugee Studies Center and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative at the University of Oxford, England. She worked at Oxford with scholars and practitioners from all over the world to understand

the critical issues around displaced populations. The knowledge she gained has been fully utilized in the development of HIRG with its transdisciplinary faculty members at OU, as she realized the importance of a holistic approach in helping solve hardships forced upon immigrants. Dr. Noyori-Corbett worked with the US State Department both in 2017 and 2019 for the projects titled "Diplomacy Lab." She designed and initiated the first-time research-based class in which Master of Social Work (MSW) students could apply research skills they obtained as a pre-requisite for a large-scale research project.

Her publications regarding survival migrations and feminized migration have been published in prestigious journals such as the Journal of International Social Work, Journal of International Social Welfare, Journal of Social Work Education, and so on. She has been awarded multiple OU internal grants and some external grants. With the members of the HIRG, Dr. Noyori-Corbett received a prestigious federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to investigate refugee services in public libraries. The refugee population she has been working with are mainly from Myanmar and Afghanistan who reside in Oklahoma and Texas. Her long-term community participatory research has been conducted specifically for the purpose of better understanding of challenges Myanmar women face.



### Boo-Young Lim

Doctoral Candidate, Research Assistant, Jeanine Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma

Boo-Young Lim is a doctoral candidate and a research assistant at the University of Oklahoma. Boo-Young had worked for a teacher preparation program in Myanmar. As a program coordinator, she developed and modified the teacher preparation program with the Myanmar Department of Social Welfare. She is interested in teacher education, technology integration, and culturally responsive teaching for dual language learners and children from refugees. She published articles in the areas of implementing strategies for the Official Development Assistant in early childhood education and cross-cultural, culturally responsive pedagogy.

## Learn the Signs. Act Early.

### Outcomes of CDC's Developmental Health Initiative on the Early Identification of Developmental Delay in Young Children

LOCATION: DEVON BOATHOUSE



### Bonnie J. McBride, PhD

Associate Professor of Pediatrics  
University of Oklahoma Health Sciences  
Director, Oklahoma Autism Center  
CDC's Act Early Ambassador to Oklahoma

Bonnie McBride, Ph.D., BCBA-D is an Associate Professor in the Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Her research interests include early identification and use of evidence-based interventions for autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities. In addition to her faculty position, she provides professional development to educators and other professionals throughout the state on a variety of autism-

related topics. She has worked with several state agencies to improve early identification and intervention services for children with developmental disabilities including autism. In her role as Oklahoma's Ambassador for the CDC's Learn the Signs. Act Early. program, she promotes the importance of developmental monitoring, screening, and entrance into intervention as soon as a delay is identified. Most recently, she is partnering with Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness (OPSR) to improve developmental outcomes for young children by enhancing early identification within early childhood systems using Learn the Signs. Act Early. as part of the recently awarded Preschool Development Grant to DHS and OPSR.

**Learn the Signs. Act Early.** Is a program that aims to improve the early identification of children with autism and other developmental disabilities so children and families can get the services and support they need.







# Sponsors



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